

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 188212 TOSEC 080252

FOR HODDING CARTER FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: EVENING TRAVELLING PRESS SUMMARY, AUGUST 9

NO. 27

NEWSPAPERS

CHITRIB - JOHN MACLEAN FROM TAIF

LEAD: "PLO WILL SHORTLY ANNOUNCE MAJOR CHANGE IN POLICY
TOWARD ISRAEL THAT MAY OPEN WAY FOR FACE-TO-FACE TALKS
BETWEEN PLO & U.S., AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAID HERE MONDAY."

OTHER POINTS:

-- SAUDI FONMIN SAUD TOLD VANCE SUNDAY NIGHT THAT ANNOUNCE-
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MENT IS IMMINENT

-- PLO SUGGESTED WORDING OF RESOLUTION 242 BE CHANGED, BUT
US SPOKESMAN SAID US WILL CONSIDER NO REWORDING OF RESOLUTION

-- BALANCE OF ARTICLE DETAILS PRES CARTER'S REMARKS ON
PLO TO REPORTERS IN PLAINS, GA.

WIRES

UPI - JIM ANDERSON FROM JERUSALEM

LEAD: "VANCE SHIFTED HIS MIDEAST MISSION FROM THE ARAB COUNTRIES TO ISRAEL TUESDAY AND BEGAN CRITICAL TALKS WITH WARY ISRAELI LEADERS DETERMINED TO RESIST ANY US MOVE TO INCLUDE PLO IN PEACE TALKS."

OTHER POINTS:

-- VANCE ON ARRIVAL SAID HE WANTED "FULL DISCUSSION OF VARIOUS PROCEDURAL AND SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES," BUT ISRAEL SEEKS TO POSTPONE SUBSTANCE UNTIL GENEVA RECONVENES, IF IT DOES.

-- VANCE REFERENCE TO SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS APPARENTLY MEANT PLO INCLUSION IN NEGOTIATING PROCESS BUT ISRAEL WILLING TO INCLUDE PLO IN TALKS ONLY AS PART OF JORDANIAN DELEGATION.

-- VANCE URGED BY ARAB LEADERS IN EGYPT, SYRIA, JORDAN AND SAUDI ARABIA TO OPEN CONTACTS WITH PLO.

-PRES CARTER'S VERSION OF PLO POSITION AT ODDS WITH WHAT

REPORTED BY STATE DEPT OFFICIALS WITH VANCE. THEY SAID UNCLASSIFIED

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REPORTS INDICATE PLO WILL ACCEPT 242 ONLY WITH MODIFICATIONS; US HAS ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION OF MODIFICATIONS THROUGH THE ARABS.

AP - BARRY SCHWEID FROM JERUSALEM

LEAD: "VANCE FLEW INTO ISRAEL TODAY ANTICIPATING SOME TOUGH QUESTIONING BY ISRAELI CHIEFS OVER REPORTS OF POSSIBLE UNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN US AND PALESTINIANS."

OTHER POINTS:

-- ARRIVAL MARKED BY TIGHT SECURITY AGAINST TERRORIST ATTACKS.

-- DISPUTE OVER NEGOTIATING WITH PALESTINIANS IS MAJOR STUMBLING-BLOCK TO RECONVENING GENEVA TALKS & ISSUE FURTHER CLOUDED BY CONFLICTING REPORTS OF PLO'S POSITION FROM PRES CARTER (WHO SAID PALESTINIAN LEADERS "HAVE INDICATED THEY MIGHT ADOPT RES 242") AND VANCE (WHO TOLD NEWS CONFERENCE IN TAIF HE HAD HEARD RUMORS OF IMPENDING SHIFT IN PALESTINIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD ISRAEL, BUT ADDED: "I HAVE SEEN NOTHING CONCRETE YET").

-- FOLLOWING VANCE/BEGIN TALKS, FONMIN DAYAN TOLD REPORTERS ISRAEL RULED OUT ANY ROLE FOR PLO IN PEACE TALKS EVEN IF IT ACCEPTED UN RESOLUTIONS RECOGNIZING EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL.

REUTERS -ROY GUTMAN FROM JERUSALEM

LEAD: "PM BEGIN DECLARED TONIGHT THAT SECSTATE VANCE HAD BROUGHT 'A VERY SERIOUS AND GREAT ACHIEVEMENT IN THE CAUSE OF PEACE' FROM HIS TALKS WITH ARAB LEADERS."

OTHER POINTS:

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-- BEGIN TOLD REPORTERS VANCE ASKED HIM NOT TO DISCLOSE DETAILS OF US PEACE MOVES IN MIDEAST.

-- BEGIN PLEDGED ISRAEL WOULD TAKE ANY PATH THAT WOULD SERVE CAUSE OF PEACE.

EVENING TELEVISION

ABC'S DUNSMORE: AMONG THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE US AT THIS TIME IS THE VERY NATURE OF THE VANCE MISSION. HOWEVER WARM THE OFFICIAL WELCOME MIGHT BE, THE ISRAELIS DID NOT WANT VANCE TO COME TO THE MIDEAST CARRYING NUMEROUS PROPOSALS FOR A SETTLEMENT. IT'S ASSUMED THAT THOSE PROPOSALS ARE ALONG THE LINES PRESIDENT CARTER HAS ALREADY MADE PUBLIC. WHILE ISRAEL AGREES WITH HIS IDEAS ON THE NATURE OF PEACE, IT DOES NOT ACCEPT US PROPOSALS ON FINAL BORDERS OR A PALESTINIAN HOMELAND.

AS SECRETARY VANCE SAT DOWN WITH PREMIER BEGIN AND HIS CABINET, THERE IS ANOTHER AREA OF DIFFERENCE. VANCE SAID SEVERAL TIMES PUBLICLY DURING THE PAST WEEK THAT THERE SHOULD BE ADEQUATE PREPARATION FOR A GENEVA CONFERENCE, MEANING SOME PRENEGOTIATIONS. THE ISRAELIS DON'T WANT TO NEGOTIATE ANYTHING IN ADVANCE. BUT THE MAIN DIFFERENCE FOR THE MOMENT DEALS WITH THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION. IF IT WERE TO ACCEPT UN RESOLUTION 242, WHICH IMPLICITLY ACCEPTS ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST IN PEACE, THE US WILL DEAL WITH IT, AND MIGHT SUPPORT ITS PRESENCE AT GENEVA. BUT FONMIN DAYAN REPEATED TONIGHT, ISRAEL IS STILL TOTALLY OPPOSED TO DEALING WITH THE PLO UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

IT'S BEEN SAID THAT THE NEW FACT OF US-ISRAELI RELATIONS
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IS THAT UNLIKE BEFORE, WHEN THE TWO COUNTRIES TENDED TO COORDINATE THEIR POLICIES, CARTER AND BEGIN HAVE AGREED TO DISAGREE. THE THING IS, THESE DISAGREEMENTS REFLECT NOT SIMPLY DIFFERENCES OF OPINION, BUT MUCH MORE IMPOR-

TANTLY, DIFFERENT INTERESTS.

NBC'S CHANCELLOR: LEAD STORY

CHANCELLOR: SECSTATE VANCE ARRIVED IN ISRAEL TODAY AND RAN INTO A FLAT REFUSAL BY THE ISRAELIS TO DEAL WITH THE PLO, REGARDLESS OF WHAT DEALS IT MAY OFFER OR WHAT PROMISES IT MAY MAKE.

FONMIN DAYAN SAID: "THE PLO'S OBJECTIVE IS TO DESTROY US."

AND HE SAID "IF THERE CAME TO BE DIFFERENCES WITH THE US, THEN ISRAEL WILL DEFEND ITSELF."

VALERIANI: AS SECSTATE VANCE ARRIVED IN ISRAEL, THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION & CONTROVERSY HERE ABOUT AMERICAN POLICY TOWARD THE PLO. THE PLO'S CHARTER CALLS FOR THE DISMANTLING OF THE JEWISH STATE. BUT JUST BEFORE COMING, VANCE SAID PLO ACCEPTANCE OF THE BASIC U.N. RESOLUTION ON THE MIDEAST WOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO REVOKING THAT CHARTER.

FONMIN DAYAN STRONGLY DISAGREED. HE RESTATED ISRAEL'S FIRM OPPOSITION TO DEALING WITH THE PLO AND EXPLAINED WHY:

DAYAN: WE DO NOT OBJECT FOR ARAB PALESTINIANS - NOT THE PLO, BUT ARAB PALESTINIANS - TO PARTICIPATE WITH THE JORDANIAN DELEGATION. BUT WE DO NOT SEE ANY REASON TO DISCUSS OR TO NEGOTIATE WITH ANY PARTY WHICH IS NOT A STATE, TO SAY NOTHING OF THE PLO, AND ESPECIALLY WITH THE PLO, WHOSE OBJECTIVE IS TO DESTROY ISRAEL.

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VALERIANI: THE PLO IS NOT THE ONLY POINT OF DISAGREEMENT. THERE APPEARS TO BE A FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE US AND ISRAEL ON THE BASIC APPROACH TO ANOTHER ROUND OF ARAB/ISRAELI TALKS.

THE ISRAELIS WANT TO CONCENTRATE NOW ON GETTING TO GENEVA AND THEN NEGOTIATING THERE ON MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE. BUT VANCE LEANS TOWARD THE ARAB VIEW THAT THERE SHOULD BE AS MUCH AGREEMENT AS POSSIBLE BEFORE A GENEVA CONFERENCE IS RECONVENED. VANCE HOPES THIS DIFFERENCE CAN BE RESOLVED BEFORE HE LEAVES HERE ON THURSDAY.

DURING HIS MEETING WITH PM BEGIN, VANCE PRESENTED A VARIETY OF AMERICAN PROPOSALS FOR GETTING THE ARABS AND ISRAELIS BACK TO THE CONFERENCE TABLE IN GENEVA, AND HE ALSO RELAYED THE VIEWPOINTS HE COLLECTED IN THE VARIOUS

ARAB CAPITALS. HE'LL GET THE ISRAELI REACTIONS AT ANOTHER MEETING WITH PM BEGIN TOMORROW.

CHANCELLOR: VALERIANI WAS THE FIRST JOURNALIST TO REPORT

THE NEW POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE MIDEAST, WHICH HAS DOMINATED THE NEWS FROM THERE SINCE LAST SUNDAY. WE HAVE ASKED HIM TO STAND BY IN ISRAEL FOR A FEW QUESTIONS. DICK, HOW SERIOUS IS THIS DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE US AND ISRAEL?

VALERIANI: IT IS POTENTIALLY VERY SERIOUS. THE US HAS PROMISED THE ISRAELIS THAT THEY WOULD NOT DEAL WITH THE PLO AS LONG AS THE PLO DID NOT RECOGNIZE ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST AND THE AMERICANS ARE NOW LOOKING FOR SOME WAY TO GET OFF THAT HOOK. AND THAT'S WHY ALL THIS TALK ABOUT NATIONAL CHARTERS AND COVENANTS AND UN RESOLUTION 242 IS SO IMPORTANT.

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CHANCELLOR: WE ARE GETTING CONFLICTING REACTIONS FROM THE PALESTINIANS. SOME OF THEM SAY THEY MAY BE CONSIDERING A POLICY CHANGE; OTHERS ARE HARD-LINE ABOUT IT. WHAT DO YOU HEAR?

VALERIANI: THAT'S A MAJOR PART OF THE PROBLEM. THE PLO SPEAKS WITH MANY VOICES. THERE ARE HARD-LINERS AND THERE ARE SO-CALLED MODERATES. AND THAT'S WHY THE US HAS ASKED FOR CLARIFICATIONS, BECAUSE IT'S NOT QUITE SURE WHO'S DOING WHAT TO WHOM. AND I WAS TOLD IN AMMAN, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL HAS AUTHORIZED CERTAIN CHANGES IN THE POSITION WHILE THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE PLO HAS NOT.

CHANCELLOR: DICK, DO YOU HAVE ANY FEELING THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN MORE CO-ORDINATION THAN WE ARE AWARE OF BETWEEN THE USG AND THE PALESTINIANS ON THIS POTENTIAL POLICY CHANGE?

VALERIANI: I THINK THE US AND THE PLO HAVE BEEN TALKING INDIRECTLY FOR QUITE SOME TIME, BUT THERE IS NO REAL CO-ORDINATION. HOWEVER, I THINK THERE IS CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN THE US AND VARIOUS ARAB GOVERNMENTS ON HOW TO DEAL WITH THE PLO PROBLEM & PRES CARTER HAS IN EFFECT APPEALED TO THE PLO OVER THE HEADS OF THE ISRAELIS TO DO SOMETHING TO MAKE THEMSELVES RESPECTABLE. BUT SO FAR THE ISRAELIS AREN'T BUYING, AND AT A DINNER TONIGHT FOR VANCE, FOR EXAMPLE, PM BEGIN COMPARED THE PLO TO THE NAZIS, AND YOU KNOW WHAT KINDS OF MEMORIES THAT WAKES.

CBS'S MUDD: SECSTATE VANCE FLEW TO ISRAEL TODAY & FOUND OUT QUICKLY THAT THE ISRAELIS ARE AS ADAMANT AS EVER ABOUT REFUSING TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE PLO.

KALB: SECSTATE VANCE FLEW INTO AN ISRAEL THAT HAD BEEN

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NERVOUSLY WATCHING HIS JOURNEY THROUGH THE ARAB COUNTRIES. THE ISRAELIS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT THEY SEE AS A US DRIFT TOWARD THE ARAB POSITION. THEY'RE CONCERNED TOO ABOUT PRES CARTER'S OVERTURES TOWARD THE PLO AND FONMIN DAYAN WELCOMED VANCE WITH SOME POINTED HUMOR THAT REVEALED ISRAEL'S ANXIETY.

DAYAN: WHENEVER YOU ACCEPT OUR VIEWS, WE SHALL BE IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH YOU. THANK YOU VERY MUCH (LAUGHTER)

VANCE: ALTHOUGH SOME DIFFICULTIES DO OBVIOUSLY FACE US, I AM SURE IN THE SPIRIT OF THE CO-OPERATION AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING WHICH HAS ALWAYS CHARACTERIZED THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, WE SHALL BE ABLE TO OVERCOME THESE DIFFICULTIES.

KALB: VANCE LATER HELD HIS FIRST ROUND OF TALKS WITH PM BEGIN AND THE ISRAELI NEGOTIATING TEAM. IT WAS WIDELY SPECULATED THAT A CONFRONTATION MIGHT DEVELOP AS A RESULT OF A CLASH IN US/ISRAELI VIEWS ON A VARIETY OF ISSUES INVOLVED IN A PEACE AGREEMENT. AND AT A NEWS CONFERENCE LATER, DAYAN MADE CLEAR ISRAEL'S FUNDAMENTAL DISAGREEMENT WITH PRES CARTER'S INTIMATION THAT THE PLO MIGHT WIN AN ADMISSION TICKET TO A GENEVA CONFERENCE IF IT ACCEPTED THE KEY UN RESOLUTION, NUMBER 242, DEALING WITH A MIDEAST SETTLEMENT.

DAYAN: EVEN IF THE PLO WILL STATE THAT THEY DO ACCEPT 242 AND EVEN IF THEY SAY THAT THEY ACCEPT IT WITHOUT ANY RESERVATION, IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE WOULD ACCEPT THE PLO AS A PARTNER FOR NEGOTIATIONS FOR PEACE OR A PARTICIPANT IN THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE.

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KALB: THE VANCE MISSION TO ISRAEL HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN, BUT ALREADY THE PRIVATE DIALOGUE IN THIS COUNTRY SOUNDS AS THOUGH A MAJOR RIFT IS DEVELOPING BETWEEN THE US AND ISRAEL.

CHRISTOPHER

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